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## New York's demonstration train shows to 68,500

An 8-car special exhibit train toured the rails in New York State for 3 weeks in April, making about 40 stops and showing approximately 68,500 people some of the latest and most practical developments in farm and home research.

This is the first time in about a quarter century that such a demonstration train has been sponsored by the State colleges and the railroads. The first demonstration train was sponsored in 1909 when professors and their assistants gave short talks at scheduled stops during a period of 3 or 4 days to a total audience of about 25,000 people. The next year, in 1910, the first fruit special toured the northwestern part of the State for 5 days, with an attendance of 15,000. Four other specials were sponsored that same year carrying exhibits of cattle, poultry, and other livestock, as well as numerous crop exhibits. Lectures and demonstrations were given on dairying, cow testing, butter making, poultry raising, alfalfa growing, and pasture improvement.

Sixteen specialists lived on the train to explain the exhibits, answer questions, and were ready to describe some of the new things in research. Their schedule ran something like this: Up around 7 a. m. each working day; breakfast, 7:45 to 8:30; open for business at 9 to 12; dinner 12:30; another showing, 1:30 to 4:30 p. m.; supper, 5:30 to 6:30; and on some days an evening performance started at 7 or 7:30.

As the train came to a stop the county agent of that county boarded the train and assisted the specialists in explaining the educational exhibits.

The train was made up of a flatcar with a full-size buck rake mounted on a truck and a long hay blower. A baggage car came next with an agronomy exhibit of hay and pasture mixtures and models of hay-making equipment. Next, a coach featured plans and methods on a modern dairy farm. The vegetable car showed, among other things, new weed sprays, new varieties of potatoes, and a home-made freezer. The poultry car featured labor-saving arrangements, poultry house ventilation, and egg handling.

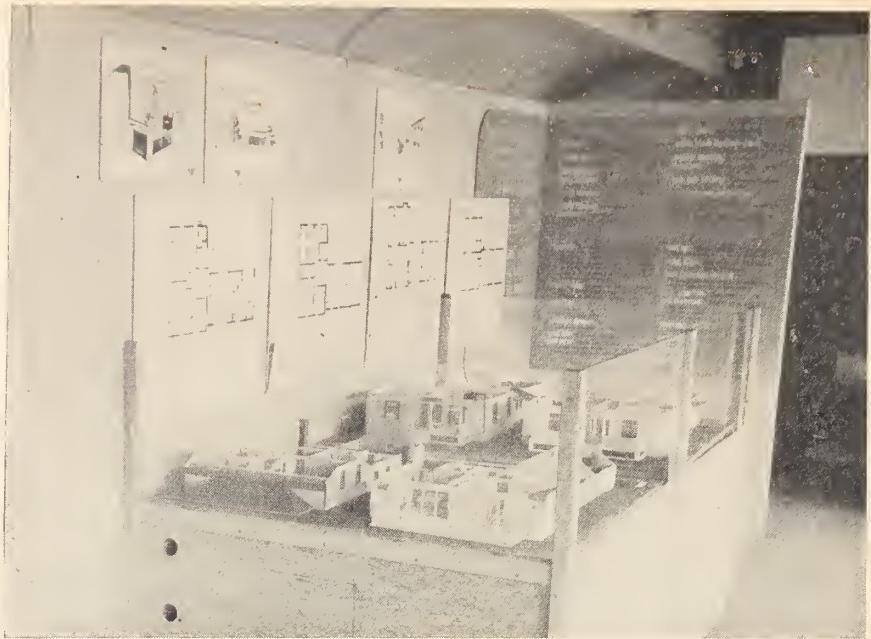
The home economics cars always had a full house. One car was devoted largely to labor efficiency in home work centers: A wide ironing board, an improved sewing cabinet, and ideas for an efficient dish cupboard. Comments overheard ran something like this: "I could easily do that in my kitchen," or "I'm certainly going to try that."

The last car was a rural housing exhibit with a model of a farmhouse as it now stands and as it could be improved. It also had a model tenant house. This car, too, proved almost a bottleneck, visitors were so eager to look at the plans and models there.

At many points school was dismissed so the agricultural and home economics students could visit the Farm and Home Special, and often the

Associate Professor F. S. Erdman, of Cornell University, screws in the lid fastener on the Flamglas and corkboard-insulated freezer which was exhibited on the Farm and Home Special.





The housing car showed a model of a farmhouse as it is today and as it might be remodeled.

railroad siding was lined with school busses bringing them from near and far.

The soil test showing laboratory apparatus in the agronomy exhibit attracted considerable attention, as did also the dairy, poultry, and vegetable cars. The train received wide publicity as it rolled along. Officials of the Canadian National Railways came from Montreal to board the train at Malone, as they are planning a similar train next year in Canada.

The New York Times requested 15 pictures for an overseas edition which will carry the news of New York's Farm and Home Special even to foreign countries. Life magazine spent a day and a half taking pictures.

An illustrated printed report and a detailed statement are being prepared for general distribution for the benefit of other States wanting to know how the project was organized, the cost, and what to avoid, as gained from the experience in New York.

## Producer-consumer institute proves successful in Jersey

With nearly a million people in the county and only 225 farms (census-counted), Extension Service agents in Essex County, N. J., are keenly aware of problems of the consumer as well as those of the producer.

It is natural that much of the work of the 2 agricultural and 2 home agents should be concerned with city people. Their 1945 annual report shows 14,778 telephone calls, 20,820 letters, 3,584 office calls, and 698 meetings attended by 22,894 people.

It is also natural that they should be keenly interested in helping producers and consumers understand each other's problems. To promote this objective they decided to experiment with a producer-consumer institute. They felt that representatives of consumer groups with which the home agents work could tell farmers what they look for when they buy food, how they have been disappointed in such purchases, and which ones they were satisfied with, also what

they like to get for canning and freezing. Likewise it was felt that consumers are interested in farmers' problems and that both groups would welcome a discussion of the current and future outlook for food production.

The institute was held on February 27 and was opened by the new technicolor movie, Repackaging, produced by Ohio State University and the A & P Stores. The Walt Disney film, Something You Didn't Eat, opened the afternoon session. An agricultural economist from Rutgers appeared on both the morning and afternoon sessions. Of most interest, however, were two lively exchanges between producers and consumers, each one featuring a woman consumer and a farmer producer. Interesting topics were brought out, and both groups got a new insight into each other's problems. Movies on quick freezing and dehydration filled out the program. Although no attempt was made to get out a crowd, 51 people attended.

The Essex County agents, R. E. Harman, Mrs. Margaret Shepard, James W. Gearhart, and Anna A. Cole, are planning to follow this up next year with a similar institute for which they will attempt to get out a larger crowd, possibly holding two meetings—one at each end of the county.

The Rocky Mountain Rural Library Institute is scheduled for August 19-31 in Cameron Pass Club Camp, Gould, Colo. It is an ideal location for outdoor activities with the opportunity to study library services especially as they apply to sparsely populated sections. The institute will be conducted on the discussion basis and designed for rural educators and leaders in rural life. James G. Hodgson, Librarian, Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Fort Collins, Colo., and Harriet E. Howe, Director, School of Librarianship, University of Denver, are in charge of the institute.

A HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT has been appointed in Georgia to work with the wives of veterans on the college campus. These young home-makers who are getting started under crowded conditions and in strange surroundings welcome the help of the agent.

# Mississippi plans for organized cooperation

The organized production and marketing program of the Mississippi Agricultural Extension Service is estimated in 1945 to have brought Mississippi farmers an additional \$2,200,000 from sales of around \$26,000,000 worth of farm products, including cotton and cottonseed, livestock, poultry and eggs, forest products, dairy products, seeds, fruits and vegetables, and other miscellaneous products.

An intensified organized production and marketing program was launched during the war to provide more food and to give Mississippi farmers a ready market and fair prices for their farm commodities, especially on the postwar market where the demand will be for uniform quality products.

The plan is to help farmers know what the market wants, how it wants it, where it wants it, and when it wants it.

Special areas which are already doing a good production job or could produce certain commodities are chosen for development. Extension Service marketing and subject matter specialists and county agents work to organize the interested farmers into cooperative associations. Their job then is to give the educational assistance and advice necessary to grow and market uniformly high-grade products that will bring additional cash income.

The 1944 Mississippi Legislature gave the State-organized marketing program a decided boost when it passed the Agricultural Marketing Act, with an appropriation of \$135,000. This act encourages farmer cooperation in the development of marketing programs and acquiring marketing facilities.

Under this act, 10 or more farmers can organize under State Agricultural Association Law regulations. If they feel the proposed project is needed, is practical, has the right plans, and is sufficiently supported by dependable people, the Extension Service marketing specialists submit their recommendations concerning

the program to the State Marketing Commission. This Commission may then approve a grant, not to exceed \$10,000, for the cooperative.

One of the most active producer associations, the South Mississippi Poultry Producers Association, was organized by a small group of farmers in the winter of 1941 with the help and encouragement of extension marketing and poultry specialists.

Now, eggs are picked up once a week from 750 farms along 5 truck routes that cover 13 counties. The eggs are graded at the Forrest County Cooperative (AAL), which operates the association. If an unreasonable number of a producer's eggs grade low, the Extension Service offers suggestions for improving the quality of the eggs.

These attractively cartoned "A" and "B" grade eggs are delivered daily to grocery stores in Hattiesburg, where they sell for an average of 7 cents more than open-market eggs.

The Extension Service has worked with producers in cooperative lamb sales at Macon, Greenwood, Natchez, and Jackson; wool sales at Columbus, Greenwood, and Natchez; and feeder calf sales at Port Gibson, Edwards, Macon, and Summit.

## Sales Teach Good Methods

These sales have been organized and conducted to emphasize desirable production and management practices that will gradually increase livestock income. The total value of all cattle, lamb, and wool sales the Extension Service assisted with in 1945 amounted to approximately \$148,487.

Five years ago only about 250 lambs were sold at the Macon sale, and about 80 percent of these graded common. In 1945 about 80 percent of the 1,225 lambs brought to the largest lamb sale in Mississippi's history graded medium, good, and choice. The lambs sold for \$10,275.

The sweetpotato program in which 577 4-H Club members from 12 counties in the Laurel area participated

last year is demonstrating to club members and adult growers the need and value of following recommended practices on an organized and cooperative basis.

These 4-H Club members received \$37,853 for the 1,499,470 pounds of sweetpotatoes they delivered to the Sweetpotato Growers, Inc. This organization, which operates a dehydration plant in Laurel, agreed to store, process, and market all No. 2 grade and better potatoes grown in the demonstration. About 45 percent of the potatoes were No. 1's.

Although the sweet corn crop in Mississippi might be termed a "war baby," the Extension Service has already made plans to enlarge the program which in the past 3 years shipped 29 cars for a return to farmers of \$25,022. This project was started in an effort to help supply fresh food to Camp McCain and other Army camps.

## Develops Sweet Corn Market

Mississippi sweet corn was sold on the open commercial market for the first time last year in 6 States—Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Ohio. Ten counties in north Mississippi are planning a much larger program in 1946 with a tentative goal of 50 to 60 carloads. It takes about 3,000 dozen ears of corn to fill one car.

Fifty-five Smith County farmers, all members of the Smith County Melon Growers Association, which was organized at Mize early in 1945 to develop a market for farm products, made almost \$14,000 from the 50 carloads of melons they sold this past summer.

The association plans to produce and market Irish potatoes, watermelons, cantaloups, sweetpotatoes, seed crops, including lespedeza and oats, and possibly sweet corn in 1946. To handle the 1946 products, they plan to build a warehouse and packing shed at Mize, at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

With some 200 acres planted in cucumbers in Clarke County by 175 cooperating farmers, the enterprise which started 5 years ago has added about \$12,000 to the cash income of small farmers who are not able to grow other cash crops satisfactorily.

# Work in Ozark Mountain county brings Addie Barlow national recognition

■ Addie Barlow, home demonstration agent in one of Arkansas' most interesting but mountainous counties, has been awarded the General Education Board supervisory fellowship given annually to district agents or prospective district agents in the South.

Under the 12 months' grant, Miss Barlow will work toward a master's degree in rural social organization and adult education at Columbia University. Following the academic year of 1946-47, she will be enabled to study extension programs in selected States for a 3-month period before returning to Arkansas.

Although Miss Barlow's academic record figured in, it was her work as a home demonstration agent that counted most in the award. This latter record began in September 1943 when a very small, determined young woman came to Jasper (Newton's railroadless county seat of some 250 population) as the "new home demonstration agent." Fresh from college and with 3 months' experience as an apprentice agent in another county, this young woman had some ideas of what a home demonstration program ought to be. More important maybe was the fact that she had a lot of enthusiasm and was willing to learn. The ideas came fast enough.

## Learning Ways of Mountain Folk

Her tutors, as had been the case of many another home demonstration agent, were the farm men and women of this rural county. From them she learned the patience she needed when plans were slow to mature. From them she came to know the ways of hill folk—their strength of character, their inherent abilities—their loyalty to people they respected—their goodness.

She had known that through the years many of Arkansas' leaders had come from this and similar mountainous counties of the State. Now she was to know first-hand the

reasons why. She was to find men and women—tired through working a soil, rocky as it was hilly—but possessed of the philosophies that breed leaders.

Working, learning, playing—Addie Barlow did many of the things any home demonstration agent does.

Working cooperatively with W. H. Freyaldenhoven, the county agricultural agent, 4-H Clubs were increased until there were 20 with a membership of 286 boys and 350 girls. Home demonstration clubs soon numbered 15 with 307 members—exactly 21.2 percent of all the farm women in the county.

Although Newton is a small county, Miss Barlow looked upon leader development as one of the first aims. Consequently, leaders were trained to take over much of the instruction at both 4-H and home demonstration meetings. A typical year for leader training included a training meeting in cutting and canning beef, two demonstrations in poultry culling and dis-

ease control, two in training home demonstration club officers for their jobs, and two in canning fruits and vegetables.

The problems of the county are reflected throughout her work. Milk being greatly needed in the county, both the county agricultural and home demonstration agents have urged the growing of a great many more milk goats. These thrive even on thin hilly soils. Miss Barlow uses goat's milk in some of her cheese-making demonstrations.

During 1945, she gave 27 demonstrations on community meals throughout the county. These were examples of what a well-planned meal ought to be.

Other activities included: "Hat" schools in which old hats were cleaned, blocked, and redecorated—home-made hat blocks were also a feature of the day's work; a housing survey in which it was found that 23 families plan to build new homes, 16 to use native building materials, and 13 to do most of the work themselves; a housing school in which farmers and their wives came together to learn about plans, building practices, and the laying of stone and logs; 4 sewing machine clinics in which 53 machines were cleaned and adjusted; a nutrition course given by the home demonstration agent to 26

Addie Barlow, home demonstration agent, works with her 4-H Club girls on some of the mountain crafts.



rural teachers of the county; assistance in getting a school-lunch program under way in 4 out of the 5 high schools of the county; helping 2 4-H girls set up a rat feeding demonstration showing importance of milk in the diet, viewed by more than 2,000 people; 4 county live-at-home demonstrations studied by 133 families during the year; citizenship programs held by home demonstration clubs in 15 communities; quilt lovers of the county were started on a campaign for better quality of quilts; assistance with 3-day camp with supervised recreation a main feature.

Miss Addie likes church work. She also knows the value of recreation. So she has organized a weekly get-together in the Jasper church parlor for young folks. Attendance has grown to 40 or more each week. The town has no movie. Families have been helped to beautify their homes by the use of native shrubbery—azaleas,

rebdub, dogwood, cedars, junipers, and many other native shrubs and trees which abound throughout the county.

Miss Barlow has a keen appreciation for the countryside with its waterfalls, interesting caves, and lofty mountains. Some of her enthusiasm has been transmitted to the inhabitants who sometimes take for granted the gift with which nature has seen fit to endow them.

The foregoing accomplishments have not come without a lot of hard work. And there have been plenty of difficulties. Take the county itself, for example. Although Miss Addie wouldn't trade it for any other, still it doesn't have a railroad in it (Jasper is 21 miles from one); it has one of the lowest incomes per capita in the State; the soil is thin and subject to heavy erosion; and there are hairpin curves on high mountainous roads—alternately rocky and slippery! But

the people! Well, Miss Addie vouches for them.

Of the young woman herself, perhaps the best description was given by an Ozark writer, Marge Lyon. Says Marge, "Miss Addie's whole heart and soul are given over to her work. She loves it like a professional golfer loves his game—like a newspaper man loves his work—like I like writing! It's not only a living—it's recreation and enjoyment as well. She is loyal, honest, and unselfish through and through—a person of absolute integrity."

Last summer, Marge made Miss Addie the subject of one of her weekly feature stories from the Ozarks in the Chicago Tribune.

The people of Newton County will, no doubt, look upon Miss Barlow's fellowship not as an unmixed blessing. They will be glad that this recognition has come to her, but they will deeply regret her leaving the county of which she has become so much a part.

## Working out the county schedule

■ Extension work is being done in Jefferson County, Wis., at a saving of time and travel. This means that members of the extension staff are able to reach more individuals and groups each week than formerly.

This more efficient use of extension agents' time has been brought about by staff meetings which have been held each Monday morning since January 1. Taking part in the meetings are County Agent Chester A. Dumond, County Home Demonstration Agent Blanche Moy, Assistant County Agent Robert Gerhardt, and Don Neindorf, soil conservation agent.

The staff plans its work for the week ahead. If two or three night meetings are on the calendar, a meeting is assigned to different agents so that each club meeting or other gathering will have an extension agent present and there will be no duplication whereby one club meeting would have more than one agent and another none.

If it is found that one agent is going to a township and another staff member has planned to go there, it is arranged at the staff meeting that

one agent can take care of matters for the other.

Each staff member brings her or his schedule for the week to the meeting and explains it to the others. Then changes are made in the proposed schedules to avoid duplications and to provide for one agent to take care of work in an area that two agents had planned to visit.

The extension agents say that the staff meetings have worked out very well. They help each agent to know what the others are doing. The work can be coordinated better. Duplication is avoided, and time and travel is saved.

The staff meetings have been found to be of particular value in club organization work because a certain district can be assigned to each agent and all can work on club organization without duplication.

In this way it has been found that much more territory can be covered and agents can attend many more meetings.

In other instances, some agents are better able to cover a meeting than others, as in the showing of moving pictures and the handling of equip-

ment. At the staff meeting, the week's work is planned so that such meetings are assigned to the agent best qualified for the program.

The staff meetings also give the agents an opportunity to exchange information which they have picked up about the county which may be of interest to each other. For instance, it gives Miss Moy, the home agent, an opportunity to find out from Dumond, the agricultural agent, where he has contacted people who want help in home economics projects.

The soil conservation agent confers with the others on soil projects, particularly 4-H work. At times he substitutes for other agents at meetings, particularly meetings on soil topics. He has also been called upon for other meetings.

■ A series of 14 county homemakers festivals were featured during Home Demonstration Week in Oregon. These festivals were annual achievement days to community women in counties with home demonstration agents. The women prepared the program, entertainment, and exhibits, inviting the county home extension committee and county court to attend festival luncheons.

# The human side of agriculture

The following example of how cultural practices were changed in Poland was written by Boleslaw J. Przedpelski, prompted by the lectures and writings of Dr. Brunner of Columbia University. An Extension Service consultant, Dr. Brunner was immediately interested in his extension story and sent it in for publication.

■ For centuries there has not been enough attention given to the human side of agriculture.

The development of agricultural technology—that is, technological education should be followed by the education of man if not preceded by it. Many a technological invention cannot achieve the proper progress because of the inadequate education of the man who is designed to operate it. For example, a farmer has to know numbers if a drill plow has a numerical dial; he has to read and write if he wants to belong to the Dairy Herd-Improvement Association; he must have an idea of hygiene if he wants to produce clean milk; and he has to have a social preparation in order to be a member of a cooperative.

My experiences on a dairy farm in Poland brought me to the conclusion that the human side of agriculture is very important in agricultural progress.

## I Build a Model Dairy

I bought a farm, built a barn, bought 10 tested, registered Fresian-Holstein cows (In Poland we call this breed Polish White-Black Lowland), made all necessary technical and hygienic improvements, and started to produce milk in 1932. For 3 months, however, I could not get proper, clean milk. My cows produced proper, clean milk; but my milkmaids spoiled it by unhygienic milking and, later, improper treatment. I could not solve that problem for quite a while.

After a long search for errors I finally came to my milkmaids and started to analyze them, their job, and their social position. I found that they were recruited either from among the wives of agricultural laborers or from workers who could not find other "better" jobs. To milk a cow was considered the lowest possible occupation.

My barn was on a much higher level of hygiene than their houses. It had a hot and cold running water system, canalization, and ventilation. Their houses were without these facilities, as was mine.

My barn had cultural recreation—radio. Their houses had not. I had heard that good music, harmonious like a Strauss waltz, not jazz, influences the quality and quantity of milk given by the cow. They are in a better mood. I wanted to check that by trial.

My barn should have silence, except for the music, during milking. Cows are very sensitive to noise. Noise makes them nervous. The houses of my workers were crowded, and no one had privacy.

The doctor checked the health of my milkmaids each month. When their children, parents, brothers, and sisters were sick, the doctor was called.

I required them to wash their hands after milking each cow and before starting on another. They did not wash their hands before and after their own meals at home because of the lack of understanding or sometimes even the lack of enough soap at home.

The veterinary doctor visited my barn each week and checked the health of my cows.

## Barns Are Sanitary

In my very modern barn, even by American standards but exceptional for Poland, which was created to produce excellent milk from all points of view, there were many other things which were not in the houses of my milkmaids or even in my own country house. When I came to my farm from Warsaw during the wintertime, I would spend all my time in the barn and not in the house.

After analyzing all these things, I drew the conclusion that the cultural, hygienic, educational, and health con-

ditions were on a much higher level in my barn than in the milkmaids' houses. Because of this, the milkmaids could not understand all those improvements, and some of the rules seemed even silly. I have to confess that even my wife partly joined them in this estimation of my ultra-modern dairy business.

The final result was that there was no power to force the milkmaids to use all those improvements.

Then I decided that I would have to change the social life of my milkmaids in order to produce the type of milk I desired. Perhaps in this way I could reach a goal, a very simple and, simultaneously, a very complicated goal, namely, not to spoil the clean milk given by a cow through improper milking and later treatment by the milkmaid. I realized that I could not change the social life of all milkmaids of Poland at once, but I tried to do it for my own milkmaids.

## Supports Social Change

Bearing in mind that social change should be supported by economics, too, I made the following changes: I chose only single girls and built two-room houses—bedroom and living room, with hot and cold running water and bathroom (shower only) for them. I supplied them with an unlimited amount of soap. I increased by 50 percent their salary, or rather wages, and gave them 1-year contracts. Their income was, therefore, 50 percent higher than that of the other working girls on the farm, and they had all-year jobs. Besides paying wages, I bought them boots, white coats, and towels. For the summer I bought bathing suits for all. This was very important. They had them for the first time in their lives. I explained to them through regular lectures the danger of contagious diseases, especially those spread by milk. I paid them a bonus for clean milk. Analyses were made by the independent Bacteriological Institute of Warsaw. I showed them that Monday's milk was the poorest because of the lessened work and care on Sunday. Many other things stimulating their social life, hygiene, and their partnership in my dairy were introduced.

Little by little, these new, unknown ideas in Polish farming started to work. After a period of 1 year I had

the best milk in Poland, perhaps even in Europe. It was sent to different cities by planes. Among my customers were babies from all classes and nationalities, from the poorest to the richest, with the diplomatic corps at the top.

My milkmaids became famous, too, and pictures of their way of life were in the professional and general press.

Because they were healthy, clean, educated, and knew the dairy business, they found many candidates for marriage, mostly among my neighbors, breeders, and dairy farmers. I had many candidates for this underestimated job which had been so degraded, and I think that this big achievement in such a short time was due to the increase in their standard of living and the change in their social life.

The axiom that only by teamwork of milkmaids, cows, and myself the final goal—that proper milk for our children could be obtained—found its realization.

I did not make money on this enterprise during the first 7 years though I could have done so. I did not make money because I loved too much my farm and my customers—beloved children. There was no limit in my race for improvements on my farm in order to nourish 300 to 500 children daily.

This 7-year experiment was a proof of how sociology and economics work hand in hand, helping each other, in spite of claims to the contrary.

Many other interesting conclusions could be drawn if the time of the experiment had been longer. The war event, however, cut it. Half of the cows were taken away during the period 1939–1945, the remainder in the fall of 1945.

More than 3,000 quarts of meat have been canned by Butler County, Kans., farm women for overseas relief purposes under the direction of Vernetta Fairbairn, county home demonstration agent. Nineteen pressure cookers were assembled at a central location for the canning operation.

Women of the Mennonite Church at Brainard, Kans., took the lead in this charitable enterprise. Miss Fairbairn tested the gages on the cookers and instructed the women in the use and care of the cookers.

## Singing along the way

HAROLD ENGEL, Assistant Director, WHA Radio Station

There's music in the air. Extension workers are helping to put it there. But music teaching by radio is nothing new to Prof. E. B. Gordon of the University of Wisconsin. Regularly for the past 15 years he has been on the air each week during the school year with a radio singing lesson for children. He started teaching music by radio back in 1921 in the "ear phone era" of broadcasting.

Journeys in Music Land, as the radio course is known, is a part of the Wisconsin School of the Air and is broadcast over the State-owned stations, WHA at the University in Madison and WLBL at Stevens Point. Broadcasting simultaneously, they take the broadcasts to children in thousands of rural, village, and city schools throughout the State.

Professor Gordon is known to school people throughout the State as a master teacher—a music inspiration in person. He is able to project his radiant personality through the microphone and so make available to even the least privileged rural school music talent such as only the most favored could otherwise have. He teaches children to understand, enjoy, and sing good music. The effect of his 15 years of broadcasting cannot be estimated.

### Coming in on a Wing and a Song

The parents of one of his former students who became a flier in the war said that their son had written from his air base that as the plane would return from bombing missions over Germany the crew would sing Professor Gordon's songs—which he in turn had taught them. It is easy to imagine how those songs are being retaught today by parents who, as children, joined in the broadcasts 15 years ago.

A teacher's manual and a student songbook are prepared by Professor Gordon and distributed at cost by the university station. These contain a variety of songs—jolly and serious—dance songs, marches, rounds—folk music—familiar music. Many are special arrangements with the words written by Mrs. Gordon who shares



the professor's enthusiasm for good music.

Each Wednesday afternoon Professor Gordon and his assistants—a small group of university students who demonstrate how the songs should be sung—gather in the studio. When they broadcast, a composite class, estimated at about 50,000 children in fourth- to eighth-grade classes around the State, is listening. It has been called the world's largest singing class.

Each spring, to climax the year of singing, a huge radio music festival is held at the university. Attendance is limited by the capacity of the pavilion, and reservations pour in early. District festivals are held for those who cannot attend the one in Madison. At these festivals the children from many schools sing together the songs they learned by radio.

Now, after his retirement from active teaching in the university, Professor Gordon is able for the first time to devote his entire time to radio. In addition to his broadcasts, he spends several days each week traveling about the State visiting schools, speaking at teachers' gatherings, and consulting with music educators. Wherever he goes he is among friends. It is doubtful if anyone is more widely known or better loved among school children of Wisconsin than is Prof. Edgar B. Gordon.

# Maryland senior 4-H councils hold young farmers' institutes

■ Young farmers of Maryland have been attending institutes during the past winter to consider whether or not they should be farmers. The first Institute for Young Farmers, sponsored by senior 4-H people, was held at Highland in Harford County in February, with an attendance of 32.

In spite of a warm, sunny day, which was perfect weather for plowing, 35 young people went to the institute held at Easton in March for Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Caroline Counties. R. S. Brown, county agent of Talbot County, presided at the morning meeting, which had as its theme "Getting started in farming."

Prof. Arthur Hamilton, of the farm management department of the University of Maryland, discussed the topic, Farm Family Partnerships and Leases. He described family partnerships that have been successful and outlined principles that must be followed in drawing up a farm lease. He brought out the importance of sharing in the responsibility as well as in the income, and he emphasized that a lease must be fair to both parties if it is to work. He advised young people to sit down with their families and talk things over.

Farming to Live or Living to Farm was the subject of a talk given by Edward W. Aiton, field agent of the Federal Extension Service. Two of the most important decisions a young person has to make, he said, are "What am I going to do?" and "Who am I going to do it with?" He also said that on the average farmers live longer than city people, have an opportunity to eat better—more meat and high-protein foods, wholesome milk, vegetables, wholesome fresh air. They are more independent and have security of employment but have small chance of making a large amount of money.

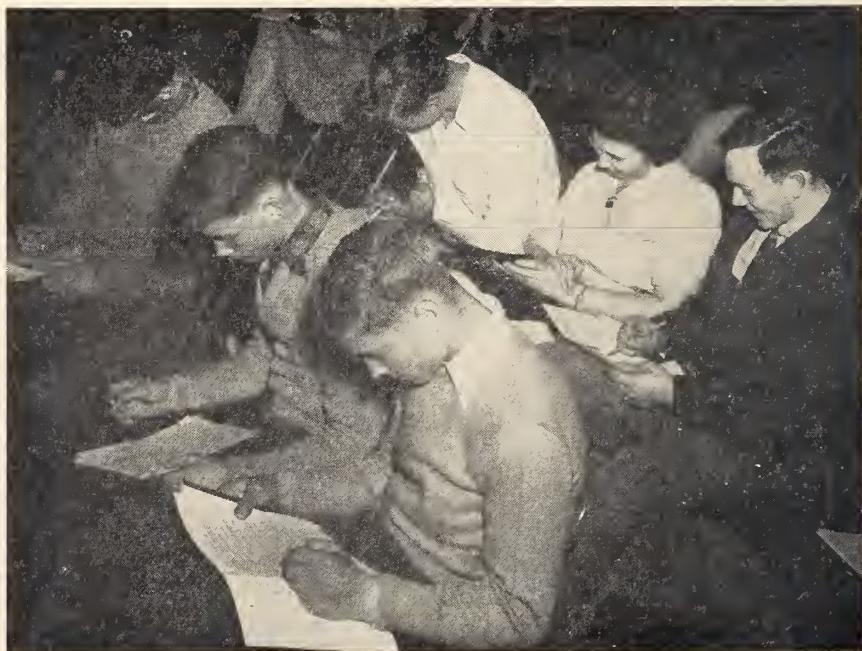
On "Selecting the type of farm," Professor Hamilton outlined the advantages and disadvantages of six different types of farming. He advised that they consider the personal

factors, available capital, experience, markets, production in the area, and income required.

"It is not always how much money you make that is important but how wise is the use of what you have in money or its equivalent," Helen Irene Smith, home management specialist of Maryland Extension Service, said when discussing the topic, Rural Family Home Dollar and Where It Goes. She said that United States



(Top) Boys from the four counties discussed their farming problems with Prof. Hamilton. (Lower) These young folks "agreed or disagreed" to the statements on *Musts for Success in Farming*.



women are responsible for spending as high as 80 percent of the family money. On the farm, however, the spending seems to be more evenly divided, with many decisions being made by the man who goes to town more often. Those who learn to do simple repairs in equipment and housing save expensive labor and reduce the costs. The more a person can do for himself in this respect the freer he is from dependence on others."

Miss Smith also said "The most successful farm families have a money record and spending plan that helps to guide the thinking in money matters from year to year. The income tax program has helped to stimulate this practice. This doesn't mean that a farm family won't be successful if they don't have a written record, but it gives them self-reliance and a comparative basis for decisions."

In the final group discussion on the "Musts for success in farming" the young people entered into a lively debate on such statements as "A farm boy who intends to be a farmer should not marry a city girl," and "A farmer should carry on the type of business he and his wife enjoy, although some other farm enterprise may be more profitable."

## Former seaman succeeds with calves

Back from the Merchant Marine, a 4-H member in Hot Springs County, Ark., decided to see if he could make some money feeding beef cattle. County Agent Titus Manasco describes the experiment and its result.

Leonard Tisdale of the Bismarck community put eight calves, valued at \$50 each, into a feeding pen. His father, with whom he lives, helped him. After 90 days of feeding, four of the calves were sold for \$95 each. The feed cost only \$25 per calf, leaving a labor return of \$20 on each animal.

Leonard plans to feed the other four calves the remainder of the winter. Then he and his sister, Laurese, who is also a member of the 4-H Club, will show them at the spring livestock show in the county.

# Britain's 4-H Clubs take a plow to church

■ Young farmers give new meaning to an ancient ceremony, and from the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries comes the following story:

Among the good things that have come to Britain from the United States are the 4-H Clubs, called by us Young Farmers' Clubs. Lord Northcliffe, the well-known newspaper proprietor, encountered them when he was in the United States in 1921. He immediately recognized their social and educative possibilities and caused the first club to be started in Britain in the same year.

Now there are nearly 1,200 of these clubs with a membership of more than 53,000, and they are expanding at a rapid rate as part of a Youth Movement in Britain emerging from the wreckage of war. Among many other activities, they are spontaneously developing an interesting new angle. It is not in any narrow sense of the word what could be called "religious," for the clubs are strictly nonsectarian and nonpolitical. But some of them are beginning to show evidence of a consciousness of the spiritual side of life and to recognize that it has a bearing on the practical. To explain it, one might roughly paraphrase it like this. "We are interested in farming. Farming deals with nature. Nature is an aspect of the Divine Power that has created the universe, of which man is only part. Therefore, we shall probably be better farmers and better and happier inhabitants of the world if we recognize this Power in our daily job."

### 44 Clubs Take Part

Last summer, a Young Farmers' Club revived the observance of Lammas Day, in which a blessing was asked for the first loaf of bread from the first sheaf of wheat to be cut. Thus was invoked God's blessing on the labor of the harvest. On January 14, members of the 44 Young Farmers' Clubs of West Sussex went in procession through the streets of Chichester, drawing a plow with them. They

took it into Chichester Cathedral, where they asked the bishop, Dr. George Bell, to bless it as "the sign of all our labor in the countryside." This was a modern interpretation of the centuries-old ceremony of "Plow Monday," the first day after the Christmas festivities when men in olden times began plowing again. It is about 300 years since anything like that happened in Chichester.

The service was specially written for the occasion. First the bishop and choir welcomed the plow on the cathedral steps. A farmer then led the people in remembering before God their shortcomings. . . . "When we have been ungrateful for the rain and the sun, the snow and the frost in their due season, and forgotten they were God's gifts. When we have been careless with the beasts and forgotten they are God's creatures. When we have ill-treated the land and forgotten it is the splendor of God." A Young Farmers' Club member expressed thankfulness for God's gifts. . . . "The rich soil and smell of fresh-turned earth. The clatter of the tractors and the gleam of a cutting edge. The seamed hand, the knotted arm, the sweat of the brow, the skill of the plowman." Hymns and prayers of thanksgiving followed, and a plowman thereupon asked the bishop to bless the plow, that had been carried to the chancel steps. Around it were kneeling eight young farmers in their white milking coats and the plowman in his dark jacket. The plow was painted silver and blue and red; and the bishop, his hand raised in blessing, stood above it in a shining cope of green and gold. Behind it was the many-colored east window of the cathedral, through which a shaft of winter sunshine gave added color and meaning to a simple, age-old scene.

■ SYLVESTER WEST was appointed assistant county agent in Fremont County, Wyo. A graduate of the University of Wyoming in 1942, Mr. West was recently discharged from the Marine Corps.



# Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## DDT Can Increase Meat and Milk Products

■ Flies have always bothered cattle in the summer, and nobody ever realized to what an extent the pests were cutting down beef and milk production until last summer. Then, during the 100-day fly season, entomologists of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in cooperation with State experiment stations and other interested agencies, used a DDT spray to control hornflies on cattle in Kansas. The result was an average increase in beef production of 30 pounds for each animal. Dairy cows treated with the DDT gave 15 percent more milk during the season. These increases mean that damage to cattle by hornflies in Kansas alone had been causing an annual loss of 86,040,000 pounds of beef. Translated into dollars, together with the loss in milk production, this amounts to about \$10,000,000 a year.

As a result of last year's trials, Kansas officials say that at least a million cattle in that State will be treated with DDT this summer for the control of hornflies.

## "Cadet" Marches in

■ In this spring of 1946, the size of the United States wheat crop is of great interest to the world. The release of a new variety of wheat—cadet—by the United States Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station should mean the production of additional bushels through its superior qualities. Moreover, the new wheat promises to excel other commercial varieties in milling and baking properties.

The superiority of new and better wheat varieties developed and introduced by the Department in cooperation with State experiment stations

contributed 150 to 200 million extra bushels to the 1945 crop of 1,123,000,000 bushels—about 13 percent of the total—according to Department estimates. Cadet is the latest of a group of hard red spring wheats to be developed. New varieties of these wheats distributed to farmers since World War I added about 300 million bushels to the Nation's harvests during World War II.

It took 10 years of breeding work to produce Cadet. The first cross, using the Merit and Thatcher varieties, was made in 1936 in a greenhouse on the roof of the South Building of the Department in Washington. It has been increased and tested since then at 24 agricultural experiment stations in 8 States. Cadet has out-yielded other beardless wheats and compares favorably with all other varieties of hard red spring wheat in resistance to stem and leaf rusts. It has strong straw and does not shatter. It is 2 to 4 days later than most of the other awnless varieties and therefore should yield well in the northern part of the Wheat Belt.

## Super Penicillin

■ Scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, where large-scale commercial production of penicillin was made possible, have been seeking to increase the supply of penicillin X, shown to be twice as potent in some respects as the now familiar form of the drug. They have already reported the isolation of a new strain of the *Penicillium* mold that gives a relatively high yield of the X form.

According to the results of medical research, penicillin X has shown strikingly superior results in treating some infections and diseases as compared with other drugs, including commercial penicillin. Another ad-

vantage of the X form is that it does not seem to be eliminated from the body as quickly as the other penicillins—F, G, and K—and therefore tends to check infections more effectively.

The workers at the Northern Laboratory isolated the new strain by exposing to ultraviolet radiation a culture of the mold derived from a strain developed at the University of Minnesota. Instead of one-seventh to one-fifth of penicillin X, the new mold yields one-half of X, which is easily separated from the F, G, and K forms because, unlike them, it is not soluble in chloroform. The new strain thrives in the same nutrient solution as the older strains—corn steep liquor and lactose, the medium devised at the Northern Laboratory early in the war. Cultures of the new mold have been made available to commercial producers who wish to supply penicillin X to physicians and hospitals.

## Jungle Parents Promise Better Rubber Trees

■ Two plant scientists of the Department of Agriculture, doubling as jungle explorers, have located more than 100 rubber trees in South America that promise to be useful in breeding superior rubber producers. Richard E. Schultes and Russell J. Seibert have been ransacking the wild regions of the upper Amazon in Colombia and Peru for 3 years to find high-yielding trees from which to obtain propagating material. The native rubber gatherers, they found, knew the trees yielding the most latex, or "milk," so they followed them and harvested budwood from the most promising. A Brazilian botanist originated a method of obtaining budwood from the tallest and widest trees by shooting twigs out of the tops with guns, and the scientists sometimes did this. After the cuttings were gathered the explorers had to give them good care and get them under propagating conditions as soon as possible.

The cuttings from these wild specimens of *Hevea brasiliensis*, the Para rubber tree, are being tested in plantation nurseries at several places in South and Central America. The trees grow to producing age in about

4 years, by which time they are approximately 18 inches in girth. Tapping tests at that age will determine to what extent the high yield and disease resistance of the wild parents have been inherited. If 10 percent have really superior qualities, the ex-

plorations will be considered highly successful. Natural rubber is still needed, as the substitutes are not yet good enough or cheap enough for exclusive use. An assured supply of rubber is considered desirable for strategic reasons.

gow town people enjoyed additional new books they couldn't afford when carrying all the cost of the library themselves.

In the spring of 1946, 10 branch stations were in operation in the county. The central library has new shelves, new paint, new books, and 500 new users. To get the children's room remodeled and establish a community rest room and children's story hour are next on the docket. Home demonstration women will make new draperies, and 4-H girls will assist with the story hour.

And so they all read happily ever after because a group of women with a dream weren't afraid to wake up and work to make the dream come true.

## A library serves Montana ranches

IVA L. HOLLADAY, Home Demonstration Agent, Valley County, Mont.

■ Valley County, Mont., has 3,245,-680 acres of big outdoors bounded by the Missouri River and Fort Peck Lake on the south and Canada on the north—a county larger than the State of Rhode Island—and there was not a library book available for any of the 1,200 farm and ranch families living within its borders. Glasgow, the county seat town of 4,000, had a small Carnegie Library, but it served only those within the city limits of Glasgow. That was the library situation up to 1944.

In the spring of 1944, home demonstration club women of the county in planning their next year's program included a question: "Would you read good books if you had access to them?" Answers came back yes, yes, yes, from all corners of the county. The following summer when the Valley County Home Demonstration Council met, the county superintendent of schools and the county home demonstration agent discussed the steps necessary to establish a county library under Montana State laws (10 percent of resident taxpayers of a county must sign the petition asking for establishment of a library). The council voted unanimously to sponsor a county library; and the council chairman, Mrs. Lloyd Henningson, appointed a library committee to start working on it. The home demonstration clubs appointed library chairmen to assist the library committee.

A meeting with county commissioners was first on their agenda. "If you get the signers, we'll do our part," promised the commissioners.

In the spring of 1945 they got the signers. Community meetings, public sales, AAA sign-up days, ladies' aid,

or any gathering was pretty likely to have a woman or two there asking: "Don't you want a county library?" Most of them did, for on check-up day more than 100 over the necessary number of names were on the library petition.

Mrs. W. K. Wittmayer, Nashua community, 15 miles from the county seat, had turned in 117 names. Mrs. H. Flickinger, 55 miles from Glasgow, turned in 88 names. Postmasters in the far corner of the county where ranches are 10 to 15 miles apart turned in 10 signatures.

Next, public hearings were held. Mrs. Flickinger drove around 75 miles over muddy roads, coming in the day before the hearing to be sure to be present to tell why rural folks needed libraries. As a result, there was no opposition to establishing a library.

The county commissioners, county clerk, county superintendent of schools, and home demonstration agent all visited the neighboring county where Carnegie Library facilities have been made available to all in the county.

In the summer of 1945, the local paper published the contract worked out between city and county in which the county would provide funds to increase facilities and personnel of the city library if it in turn would make books available for every farm and ranch family in the county, bringing book stations to every community with place and personnel to care for books.

In the winter of 1945, Valley County ranch and farm families enjoyed all the facilities of the library, checking out books by mail if they are far from Glasgow or a book station; and Glas-

## A Dutch nursery adopted

Playing fairy godmother to a Holland nursery gives the Nassau County, N. Y., women a chance to try out their skill in making stuffed animals and dolls for which they had a training school last summer. At the same time, they put into practice the good neighbor policy. Last Christmas they heard of a valiant Dutch woman, Dr. Bader, who, though her life work with a nursery had been destroyed, was gathering her staff together again and starting over with very little except an indomitable spirit.

The women first thought of the toys they had learned to make, and each one donated one to the cause. They decided that each one should also donate a can of food—the food to go to UNRRA, the toys and children's clothing to Holland; then they decided just to adopt the nursery.

The annual Christmas party when the gifts were to be brought in was a huge success, and when the gifts were counted there were 1,550 cans of food and 225 stuffed toys and dolls. Directly after Christmas the women began collecting children's clothes. So far, 3 boxes of 11 pounds each have been sent.

Some groups have set aside days "when we sew for our nursery." The Dutch nursery has sent word that they are so happy to be adopted and are eagerly awaiting the first box. Adelaide A. Barts is home demonstration agent in Nassau County.

# Health movement grows in Nebraska

The Nebraska Agricultural Extension Service, reaching into communities of every county in the State through the home extension clubs, has performed a most important role in the educational phase of the health and medical care program for rural areas.

A study of health and medical care needs of rural people in Nebraska was inspired in a large part by the interest in health expressed by members of the Home Demonstration Council in 1939. The financial assistance through the Alexander Legg Farm Foundation of Chicago made possible the bringing to Nebraska of a trained person, Miss Elin Anderson, to direct a study of health needs.

The Home Demonstration Council of Dawson County, Nebr., initiated the study because of interest which arose from a situation in that county where \$18,000 was being spent in a year for medical care for families on relief. The goal of the study was to work toward a health and medical care program to meet the needs of all rural people of the State. This was one of the few studies in the United States concerned with adequate health and medical service for purely rural areas. Through this study, information was obtained from a large sampling of people. The facts revealed by the study served as the basis for the preparation by Miss Anderson of an extension circular, *Do We Want Health?* This circular was presented through trained local leaders to all project clubs in the State as a part of the educational program regarding the status of health of rural people.

## Circular Arouses Interest

As a result of the study of this circular, the interest of extension project club women of the State was aroused, and leadership was found in the development of health projects in various parts of the State.

In 1941, in view of the lack of physicians and nurses, a study and demonstration known as "If Illness Comes" was presented to all project

clubs. In 1942, the importance of good health and physical fitness for people on the home front was forcefully recognized as a responsibility in time of war or peace. Two circulars were prepared for use as a discussion demonstration entitled *Health on the Home Front and Family Health Plan*. These were presented to all home demonstration clubs of the State.

In the spring of 1943, a State-wide health conference was held in Lincoln, the slogan of which was "Nebraska Needs a Citizen's Army on the Health Front."

Participation in these various studies and meetings concerning health has given homemakers of Nebraska an understanding of the need and the importance of health. Extension club women have become aware of the need for mobilizing forces for a health campaign and accepted the challenge to promote permissive legislation in Nebraska which would protect their families and make possible public health and medical care organization.

## Public Health Law Passed

This interest in health continued so that as a result of efforts of homemakers the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature of 1943 passed legislative bill No. 295. This was an act enabling counties or groups of counties to establish public health departments. The passage of this permissive legislation may have seemed unimportant to many people, but to men and women who have worked to gain more adequate health service it marks a milestone of progress in the development of a public health program for Nebraska.

In August 1941, a State Health Planning Committee was set up. During the following year, membership of this committee was increased to include the Director of State Health Department, a State representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Farm Security Administration.

Because of the interest of people from the Sandhill region in providing for themselves more adequate medi-

cal service, and because of the unavailability of services in that area, the committee decided to give first consideration to medical plans that were applicable to sparsely settled areas. The activities and program carried out in the Nebraska Sandhill Medical Care Program proved that, even though State and Federal funds may prove necessary to start a program, it is of utmost importance that local people discover and assume their rightful responsibility and leadership in developing such programs.

Late in 1942, medical specialists who had observed the Nebraska health and medical care program advised that other States in the Great Plains area be encouraged to develop programs and plans for rural health and medical services.

During February 1946, series of meetings were held in six districts of the State sponsored by the State Health Planning Committee. These meetings brought before leaders interested in promoting a health program inspiration and information which will be of help to them in their program planning.

## Wildlife conservation pays Texans

Texas wildlife, directly and indirectly, earned more than a million and a quarter dollars for landowners and trappers and hunters in 1945. According to figures gathered by R. E. Callender, extension game management specialist, sportsmen paid landowners an estimated \$762,441 for hunting and fishing leases; and adult trappers received an estimated \$620,070 from the sale of furs last year. In addition, members of Texas boys 4-H Clubs caught and sold furs valued at \$47,073 during the 1945 hunting season.

Organization and cooperation among landowners and good management and protection of wildlife have been responsible for the maintenance of the large game population in the State, Callender says. There were 1,542 adult and 93 4-H Club game management demonstration areas involving about 12 million acres in 1945, along with 334 adult and 15 4-H community cooperative game management associations of landowners.

# We Study Our Job

## Where do extension funds go? For what services have extension funds been used?

During the last 5 years between 35 and 40 million dollars was reported spent annually for the various types of extension services. Approximately one-third was paid out at the college and two-thirds in the counties. Of the funds used at the college \$1,300,000 was spent for various administrative purposes; over 3 million dollars for supervision of extension work in counties; and 7 million dollars for subject-matter specialists.

There were several services performed partially at the college and partially in the county—such services as editing, printing and distributing publications, circular letters and news stories. For this written material between a million and a half dollars was expended each year. Between 6 and 7 million dollars was spent annually on planning the entire extension program and planning how to carry out the program. The greater part of this money was spent in the counties.

Of the 25 million dollars or more spent for services in the counties 28½ percent goes for work with youth and 7½ percent for work with adults. Over 4 million dollars was used to pay the expenses in connection with 3,400,000 farm and home visits and a like amount for 11,350,000 office calls.

During the last 5 years between 3 and 4 million dollars was spent annually for work with method demonstrations. A slightly larger amount was used for result demonstration meetings. Travel and other expenses in connection with general meetings cost 2 million dollars. Expenditures of about a million dollars each were used for leader-training meetings and for the preparation and other work in connection with exhibits.

What was the average cost for some of the individual extension services? A farm and home visit has cost the public one to one-and-one-

half dollars per visit; an office call, 25 to 50 cents. For a result demonstration the public has paid \$10 to \$15 for the Extension Services' contribution; \$5 to \$10 for a general meeting; twice as much for a leader-training meeting.

It has been estimated that it costs, on the average, \$5 to change a farm or home practice but that the benefits to the people making the change are many times this amount.

This rounds out a series of eight analyses of county extension reports prepared by Eugene Merritt of the Federal staff who retired April 1 after 40 years' service. Titles of preceding "We Study Our Job" articles published each month starting in October 1945 are:

Extension has a reconversion problem.

What is the function of the result demonstration?

How county extension agents use their time.

Extension contacts through meetings.

Do we need more or less farm or home visiting?

County extension workers' time patterns.

What is the proof of extension teaching?

## Louisiana Almanac study

An interesting account of the understanding and use of the Louisiana Farmers' Almanac by 216 farm families is given in Extension Service Circular 434, AN EVALUATION OF THE LOUISIANA FARMERS' ALMANAC prepared by Marjorie Arbour, Louisiana extension editor, and Ida Mason of the Federal staff.

The report tells how the Almanac was distributed; how many understood it and how many made use of it. Three-fourths of the persons interviewed still had their copies of the Almanac available for use. Seventy-two percent had read some parts of it; 93 percent had glanced through it;

88 percent considered it useful; and 30 percent had recommended or given it to neighbors or relatives.

The study also brings out the importance of presenting information clearly and simply; more details on this were given in December REVIEW.

## Agricultural Extension as a profession

Generally expressing it, a profession is one's principal calling, vocation, or employment. In a very early day before the so-called natural sciences were developed, there were only three professions: Theology, medicine, and law. Each was based on the philosophy of that day, or empirical knowledge concerning diseases and remedies or the legal codes laid down by the Romans, or Napoleon, or Blackstone.

In a restricted sense a profession is a calling or occupation in which one professes to have acquired some special knowledge used for instructing, guiding, or advising others, or in serving them in some art. Agriculture and Home Economics Extension certainly conforms to such a definition.

But more must be added: It is not alone our knowledge of the material sciences but a working knowledge of the laws of learning, the characteristics of human beings that may be used systematically to discover problems on the farm and in living, and the procedure necessary to make new practices acceptable and to revise old habits to meet new demands and desires for satisfaction. Such is the more modern definition of a profession, especially that of Agricultural Extension.—*A. B. Graham, formerly subject matter specialist, Washington, D. C.*

FRANCIS A. CHISHOLM, who has been acting State 4-H leader in Wyoming for the last 3½ years, was appointed agricultural extension agronomist at the University of Wyoming, effective March 1.

# Crook of Newlands project

T. SWANN HARDING, Office of Information, USDA

T. Swann Harding, editor of the Department of Agriculture house organ, *USDA*, recently took a trip to four Western States to visit extension activities. This story of a veteran county agent is the first of four stories reporting on some of the things he saw.

While the Government still owns about 90 percent of the land in Nevada, and while a good deal of this acreage is good for little except as exercise ground for jack rabbits and to hold the rest of the country together (or apart, as you wish), agriculture also flourishes here. For instance, Nevada's Elko County has as many beef cattle in it as any county in the United States.

Then there is the Newlands (formerly Truckee-Carson) irrigation-reclamation project, mainly in Churchill but partly in Lyon County. It was the first project of its kind established (in 1903) in the United States under the Reclamation Act of 1902. Here the Truckee and Carson Rivers produce a bank of fertility in some 87,000 acres of green fields, perhaps too largely lush alfalfa.

## Settlers Look for Quick Wealth

The original idea was to irrigate 300,000 acres, but this was cut to 87,000, of which some 40,000 are now in cultivation; 10,000 acres are in mixed grasses and ladino. In early days water rents had been set too low, and they had to be raised. Extensive advertising campaigns brought in successive groups of settlers, many of whom expected to get rich quick by growing alfalfa and dairy herds in the sagebrush without much work. They hoped to stay only a few years and then go back where they came from, rolling in wealth.

Profits were uncertain then, there being too much one-crop farming, tied to alfalfa. Twelve or more years ago a quiet, unassuming chap came into Churchill and Lyon Counties from irrigation agriculture in Utah. He was the new county agent, Royal D. Crook. He surveyed his territory, assayed his job, and the results were anything but reassuring.

For one thing, the depression was then at its worst. For another, there were many disgruntled people on the project, and a well-knit community had yet to be created. For still another, Crook was the Department of Agriculture there, as no other agents were then operating locally, the banks were failing, and wilt was attacking the alfalfa. Few county agents ever faced such discouraging prospects at the start of their work. But Crook knew irrigation farming; he knew how to meet farmers on common ground, and he could successfully bridge the gap between research and practice.

So he sat himself down and made a plan. This plan he just about carried to complete success by the time of his retirement, February 1, 1946, still young but a victim of failing eyesight, to a 600-acre irrigated farm of his own, right there on the project. In putting his plan into execution, Crook threw the entire book of methods at his counties. He promoted pastures, fought wilt, helped organize cooperatives and effect dairy-barn improvement, and fostered cow testing.

There are about 600 operators on the project, but that is a good many when you remember there are only some 3,500 farmers in all Nevada. First of all, Crook arranged to have Government farm loans written for many of his clients. Next, he saw that pasture and higher milk yields must be promoted to replace this exclusive feeding with alfalfa hay. Immediately he called in Oliver F. Smith of the then Bureau of Plant Industry to help conquer alfalfa wilt. But, above all, he saw that high-production dairy herds could never be built up so long as they were dissipated whenever it paid better to sell than to feed alfalfa hay.

Probably few county agents have ever so fully achieved the definite

plan they made for their territory in the beginning. The wilt was slowly conquered, and as much alfalfa is now produced on a greatly reduced acreage as was produced on many more acres when Crook went to Newlands. But the wilt proved in part a blessing in disguise because it forced some diversification and helped Crook to establish a growing acreage of permanent pasture. More barley, wheat, and corn were introduced, and considerable grain is now raised locally to feed beef cattle. Oddly enough, many Corn Belt immigrants want to get away from corn and refuse to raise it, while others, unused to the crop, have to be taught how to shuck it.

Triple A and soil conservation came in and helped greatly. Strong cooperatives were organized, maintaining good relations with other business interests from the start. Extension workers made and rented out plywood forms so that cement dairy barns could be poured and built in any size required. Future Farmers and 4-H Club enrollments grew, and the two work together amicably and effectively. Poultry was introduced.

## Pastures Support Sound Agriculture

The war set things back some. Feed went up; labor was scarce; cow testing lagged; butter production, the main thing here, was limited. But barley and corn acreage increased some. Flax was tried and found wanting. Pasture acreage has increased from practically nothing to 10,000 acres. Much ladino is grown, introduced by Nevada visitors to California who learned its virtues there.

This increased pasture has placed a firm foundation under the entire Newlands project farm enterprise. It reduces labor needs and promotes soil conservation, land rehabilitation, and the use of feed right where grown. The people have learned to use their irrigation water more efficiently. Ground is better leveled and sloped; puddling and leaching are prevented. Now Crook is on his own farm in the project following the sound principles he inculcated into others. He may look back upon work well done, a sound plan completed and implemented, and his praises are generally sung throughout the project.

# *Among Ourselves*

■ EUGENE MERRITT retired on February 28 and MIRIAM BIRDSEYE on March 31 after more than three decades of active extension work, during which time they saw and shared in the evolution of the Cooperative Extension Service, from the States Relations Service to the organization as we know it today.

Mr. Merritt entered the Department in 1905, joining the States Relations Service in 1913 as assistant to its director. In 1923 when the States Relations Service was dissolved, he was assigned to the newly created Extension Service to assemble and analyze agricultural economic information for the use of State Extension Services in formulating programs bearing on economic problems.

Mr. Merritt applied his talents to almost every phase of extension educational work. He pioneered in bringing to the attention of extension workers the need of solving the problems of out-of-school youth who had not yet begun to carve their career. He also has the distinction of being the first person to help Extension relate economic facts to the home in home management programs.

The wealth of knowledge and experience which he gathered through his years of service with such pioneers in extension education as Dr. Alfred C. True, Bradford Knapp, and C. B. Smith remained a fountain of sound advice and help to be tapped, and frequently was, by the veteran as well as the novice in agricultural work.

Mr. Merritt will continue his connections with the Extension Service in an advisory capacity.

Miss Birdseye entered extension work with the Department in 1917 as a nutrition field agent, from the New York State College of Home Economics of Cornell University, where she had served for 4 years as the State's first full-time nutrition specialist. Possessed of a keen awareness of the need for improving the nutrition and living standards of rural people, she followed closely the progress of sci-

ence and research in this field, assimilating and adapting it as quickly as practicable to the extension program and helping to organize sound, effective, and badly needed nutrition programs in the States and counties.

Her leadership and untiring efforts in this field contributed much to the present nutrition program. "You have had an important part," wrote Secretary Anderson in tribute to Miss Birdseye's service, "in the development of the present program carried on by almost a hundred specialists in food and nutrition and about 3,000 county extension agents . . . When the history of the war effort is written, your name will be found on many committees to safeguard health and make more efficient use of food."

The many friends and associates of Eugene Merritt and Miriam Birdseye wish them the same success in retirement that they enjoyed in their long years of active extension educational work.

■ WARREN E. SCHMIDT, for 3½ years assistant rural sociology specialist in Ohio, has accepted a position as community organization and recreation specialist in Connecticut. Mr. Schmidt graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B. S. and received his M. S. from Ohio State University. He has recently returned after serving with the Navy for 3 years. He was a lieutenant in the Navy Supply Corps.

■ BURTON W. MARSTON, who has been on military leave from the Wyoming Extension Service for 4 years, resumed his position as State 4-H Club leader on March 1. Marston, a veteran of both World Wars, was graduated from the College of Agriculture at the University of Wyoming in 1920. He entered the Extension Service the same year and worked until 1942, when he was called into the army as a reserve officer.

During World War II, Marston was with the army service forces, first in



Burton W. Marston.

administration work in the army reception center at Camp Dodge, Iowa; later in prisoner of war camp administration at Weingarten, Mo.; and for the last few months with the New York Port of Embarkation.

Marston began extension work as assistant county agent in Platte County, Wyo. The following year he was transferred to Johnson County where he worked as county agent for 8 years. In 1928 he was appointed to his present position at the University.

■ WALTER S. WILSON has returned from the Army as an infantry major to his position as assistant State boys' club agent in Maryland. Mr. Wilson is a graduate of the University of Maryland, and before accepting a position as assistant in boys' club work in 1943 was an assistant county agent in Howard and Harford Counties, Md.

■ CARLETON P. DORSEY has returned to his former position as assistant State supervisor of emergency farm labor and associate State club leader in West Virginia. Mr. Dorsey has been with the Victory Farm Volunteers of the Extension Farm Labor office in Washington for a year.

# The Once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

THE NUMBER ONE ORDER OF BUSINESS is still the emergency food program. Victory gardens are again booming with a goal of 20 million home gardens to save food needed in famine countries. Food preservation activities have taken a new lease with community canning centers being revived and new ones organized. Wheat-saving ideas are being passed around, recipes are popular with home demonstration clubs, ideas for wheatless livestock and poultry rations interest farmers. The Secretary's call for close cooperation from extension workers in poultry culling to save grain started a wave of activity in this field.

HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK activities highlighted the need for food. For example, in Texas each home demonstration club or girls' 4-H Club donated for famine relief. Women in Delaware, Massachusetts, Kansas, and South Carolina contributed to the fund to be sent to Norway to assist in the rehabilitation of home demonstration work there. In New York local groups sent boxes to Holland, Finland, Belgium, and England.

HONOR COMES to George F. Johnson, Pennsylvania extension visual aids specialist, in an award of merit at the Second San Francisco International Color Slide Salon. The San Francisco exhibit, one of our international salons to exhibit photographs by Johnson during the past winter season, gave its award of merit to his picture "Susequehanna Sunset." The same slide and "Guernseys at Attention" were accepted by the Second Chicago International Color Slide Salon. The First Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography, and the Second Canadian International Color Exhibition of Photography held in the art gallery of Toronto also showed some of his color slides.

CORNELL'S DEMONSTRATION TRAIN broke all attendance records with late figures set at more than 68,000. Approximately 8,000 persons

asked for more than 36,000 bulletins. For historical record, the Visual Aids Service of the Department of Extension Teaching and Information completed a movie, and a bulletin is being printed to fill the many requests for information about the operation of the Special.

PENNSYLVANIA WILL AGAIN hold its annual 4-H Club Week, August 12-15, for the first time since the war. More than 1,000 boys and girls from about 50 counties are expected to attend.

THE DATE FOR THE OPENING of the Cornell extension summer course was given in the April REVIEW as July 20, although the school actually starts July 1 and runs through July 20.

THE RECORDS OF THREE VETERAN COUNTY AGENTS of South Carolina all having served in the same county for more than 30 years was sent in by J. M. Eleazer, information specialist. The oldest in point of service is R. H. Lemmon, of Fairfield County, S. C. He was appointed March 16, 1912, and has served 36 years in his home county and is reported to be as active and effective an extension worker as ever. T. A.

## EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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EXTENSION SERVICE  
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Bowen, of Pickens County, appointed September 1, 1912, now in his thirty-fifth year of service, is an active wheel-horse in his county. His son T. O., who was born after his dad's appointment, was Mr. Eleazer's assistant for 12 years in Sumter County and took over as agent when Mr. Eleazer left to accept a position as roving reporter for the State. S. W. Epps was appointed county agent in Dillon County on June 1, 1914, and is this month completing his thirty-first year of continuous service there.

A BOOK WAGON is being given the State of Vermont by the 320 home demonstration clubs there. This will make the fifth book wagon to serve rural Vermont under the State's "traveling library" program. They also have pledged a replacement when necessary probably in 3 or 4 years. This book wagon will bring the facilities of a public library to remote areas. It will be on the road continually, bringing books to certain designated stops once a month or so.

THE FIRST OREGON INSTITUTE for rural pastors is being held at Oregon State College July 22-27, sponsored by the Oregon Council of Churches, the Archdiocese of Portland, and the Home Missions Council of North America. The purposes are to increase the contacts of rural pastors with trained leaders, to acquaint them with tested methods of town and country work, and to introduce them to available social, economic, and educational resources of the community, State, and Nation.

FIFTY-SEVEN COMBINE SCHOOLS were held last month in South Carolina with county agents and local machinery dealers cooperating. The school gave combine owners and operators special instructions on methods of operating and adjusting their machines to give the best possible service.

IN 18 ORGANIZED MARKETS 473 home demonstration clubwomen in Mississippi last year sold home-grown and home-processed products amounting to \$232,460. Eight of the markets had an increase in sales last year. The products most in demand were poultry, butter, eggs, milk, and cake.